

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6349

BILL NUMBER: HB 1091

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 29, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Lifetime Hunting Licenses.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Tincher

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows a resident who serves on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana National Guard outside the continental United States during a certain period to purchase a lifetime hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will experience an increase in administrative expenses associated with re-establishing the lifetime licenses for certain individuals; however, the fee established for the license could be used to pay for any additional administrative expense.

Explanation of State Revenues: Before July 1, 2005, the DNR could issue lifetime licenses. However, Public Law 225-2005 stipulated that provisions pertaining to the lifetime licenses applied only prior to July 1, 2005. This proposal provides that an Indiana resident is entitled to purchase a lifetime license if the individual can document that he or she served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or the National Guard outside the continental United States between June 1, 2005, and July 1, 2010.

Although the number of eligible individuals who will purchase a license is indeterminable, statistics pertaining to the license are listed below. Active U.S. armed forces in Indiana for 2005 equaled 1,010. Active Indiana National Guard members as of November 2005 totaled 13,182. (Of this total, Army guard members equaling 11,122, and Air guard equaled 2,060.) Given these figures, assuming that all are eligible and that all apply for the lifetime license, approximately 14,000 could be sold. However, less than 8% of the population hunts, which brings the potential number of individuals down to less than 1,120.

The fee for a comprehensive lifetime hunting and fishing license prior to July 2005 was \$1,154. IC 14-22-12-7 provided that all money received for this license must be deposited in the Lifetime License Trust Fund (LLTF). IC 14-22-4-6 provides that all accumulated earnings in the LLTF plus 2.5% of the money in the fund must be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Fund (FWF) to maintain the automated point-of-sale licensing system and to pay the operational expenses of the Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Law Enforcement.

Based on the sale of one lifetime license at \$1,154, the Divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife could receive 2.5%, or approximately \$29, plus approximately \$11 in interest, for a total of \$40. If an individual purchased from the DNR an annual license for hunting and fishing at \$20.75, turkey hunting at \$23, a game bird habitat stamp at \$6.75, a deer firearms license at \$24, and a deer muzzle loader license at \$24, the total license revenue collected, or \$98.50, would be deposited in the FWF to finance the operations of the Divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife.

Lifetime hunting and fishing licenses and the LLTF were authorized in 1983. Prior to July 2005, the DNR sold over 42,000 lifetime licenses. In 2001, 1,547 lifetime licenses were sold. In 2002, over 21,000 were sold after a fee increase was passed by the Natural Resources Commission in 2001. In 2002, 579 lifetime licenses were sold. In 2003, 668 licenses were sold.

The lifetime license fee is the annual license fee multiplied by 20. Use of a lifetime license beyond 20 years could result in less revenue generated relative to annual purchases.

As of November 2005, the LLTF had a balance of \$8.8 M.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: DNR; Flo Sultzer, Secretary to Captain Kopczynski, Public Affairs Officer, Indiana National Guard, 317-247-3222.

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